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Economic and Social Council

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Committee for Programme and Coordination
Fortieth session
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda

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3. Programme questions:
   (a) Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1998-1999;
   (b) Proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005;
   (c) Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003;
   (d) Evaluation.
4. Coordination questions:
   (a) Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination;
   (b) United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;
   (c) Draft system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 2002-2005.
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6. Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate.
7. Provisional agenda for the forty-first session.
8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fortieth session.

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

At its thirty-ninth session, the Committee elected a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. It will be recalled that, at its twenty-fourth session, the Committee decided that, henceforth, the post of Chairman, as well as the other posts on the bureau, should rotate annually among the regional groups. At its twenty-fifth session, the Committee reaffirmed that decision and adopted the following pattern of rotation for the post of Chairman: (a) Group of African States; (b) Group of Eastern European States; (c) Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; (d) Group of Western European and other States; and (e) Group of Asian States.

At its fortieth session, the Committee may wish to elect the Chairman from the Group of Eastern European States in accordance with the agreed pattern of rotation for the post of Chairman, and the Rapporteur from the regional group that had occupied the post of Chairman the previous year, namely the Group of African States.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Pursuant to paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 34/50, the Committee submitted to the Council and the Assembly for their review the provisional agenda for its fortieth session, together with the list of documentation requested. The Assembly, by its resolution 54/236, endorsed the provisional agenda for the fortieth session of the Committee. The present provisional agenda and list of documentation also take into account decisions taken by the Council and the Assembly since the last session of the Committee.

In accordance with paragraph 6 of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX), the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit concerning the economic, social and human rights programmes of the United Nations system, including the reports dealing with the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, shall be examined by the Committee, which shall report thereon to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. In that connection, the Committee will select, under agenda item 2, the report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit for consideration at its fortieth session under agenda item 5.

The attention of the Committee is drawn to section III of General Assembly resolution 53/207, by which the Assembly approved the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on the revisions to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (A/53/16, part two, para. 52).

In that resolution, the General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to prepare revisions to the relevant rules and to bring them to the attention of the Assembly through the Committee before promulgation.

In its resolution 54/236, the General Assembly urged the Secretary-General to issue, as soon as possible, the revisions to the relevant rules of the revised Regulations

Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation adopted by the Assembly at its fifty-third session, taking fully into account the recommendations of the Committee contained in paragraph 47 of its report (A/54/16).

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation for the session (E/AC.51/2000/L.1)

Note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme of work for the session (E/AC.51/2000/L.2)

Note by the Secretariat containing a list of reports of the Joint Inspection Unit (E/AC.51/2000/L.3)

Note by the Secretariat on the current notional costs of documentation and utilization of interpretation services (E/AC.51/2000/L.4)

3. Programme questions

(a) Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1998-1999

Regulation 6.1 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation provides that:

> "The Secretary-General shall monitor accomplishments through the delivery of output scheduled in the approved programme budget through a central unit in the Secretariat. After the completion of the biennial budget period, the Secretary-General shall report to the General Assembly, through the Committee for Programme and Coordination, on programme performance during that period."

In its resolution 53/207, section V, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1996-1997 (A/53/122 and Add.1) and urged the Secretary-General to submit the programme performance report in future to all Member States by the end of the first quarter following the completion of the biennial budget period, in accordance with regulation 6.3 of the Regulations and Rules.

In that resolution, the General Assembly also stressed that in future reports more emphasis should be placed upon qualitative analysis to reflect achievements in implementing programme activities. Furthermore, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in the light of paragraph 57 of the programme performance report for the biennium 1996-1997 (A/53/122), to report with clear evidence on the impact of the reform of the Organization and restructuring of the Secretariat on programme delivery during the biennium 1998-1999.

In its resolution 54/236, the General Assembly endorsed, *inter alia*, the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee regarding programme planning, including its request to the Secretariat to ensure that future programme performance reports would provide clear justification and criteria for termination.

Also in that resolution, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Secretary-General be requested, pursuant to resolution 53/207, to further explore ways in which the full implementation of mandates could be ensured and better assessed, taking into account the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, and budgetary procedures and giving due consideration to the views of Member States, and to report thereon to the Committee at its fortieth session.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1998-1999 (A/55/__)

Report of the Secretary-General on ways in which the full implementation of mandated programmes could be ensured and better assessed (A/54/16, para. 30, and General Assembly resolutions 53/207, sect. V, para. 18, and 54/236) (A/55/__)

(b) Proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

In accordance with regulations 4.1 and 4.7 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, the Secretary-General shall propose a medium-term plan, which shall cover a four-year period and be submitted to the General Assembly one year before the submission of the proposed programme budget covering the first biennium of the plan period.

In accordance with regulation 4.8, the programmes and subprogrammes of the proposed medium-term plan shall be reviewed by the relevant sectoral, functional and regional intergovernmental bodies, if possible during the regular cycle of their meetings prior to their review by the Committee, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. The Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions shall consider the proposed medium-term plan in accordance with their terms of reference.

The Committee will have before it the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005. It is recalled that, in section II of its resolution 51/219, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, decided to approve the programme structure of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, subject to the provisions of that resolution, and decided to review in depth the structure of the medium-term plan at its fifty-fifth session, through the Committee.

In paragraph 100 of its resolution 54/249, the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General to consider the establishment of a new subprogramme on Africa under section 11A, Trade and development, through redeployment subject to the approval of the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the basis of such proposals as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its tenth session might wish to make through the Committee, within the context of the proposed medium-term plan.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (in fascicle form) (A/55/__)

(c) Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Annex I to General Assembly resolution 41/213 and regulation 3.2 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation stipulate that the Secretary-General is to submit an outline of the programme budget for the following biennium, which shall contain an indication of the following:

(a) Preliminary estimate of resources to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium;

(b) Priorities, reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature;

(c) Real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget;

(d) Size of the contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources.

In accordance with its terms of reference, the Committee, acting as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly, is to consider the outline of the proposed programme budget and submit its conclusions and recommendations to the Assembly through the Fifth Committee. Regulation 3.2 of the Regulations and Rules and General Assembly resolution 42/211 stipulate the date for submission of the outline of the proposed programme budget as 15 August of the off-budget year.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/55/__)

(d) Evaluation

Strengthening of the evaluation role and the application of evaluation findings on programme design delivery and policy directives: topics for future in-depth evaluation

Regulation 7.2 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation stipulates that all activities programmed shall be evaluated over a fixed time period. An evaluation programme as well as a timetable for intergovernmental review of evaluation studies shall be proposed by the Secretary-General and approved by the General Assembly at the same time as the proposed medium-term plan. In line with this requirement, the Committee will have before it, as part of the report on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives, a report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on topics for future in-depth evaluation.

In accordance with regulation 7.4 of the Regulations and Rules, the Committee will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives.

In-depth evaluation

At its thirty-seventh session the Committee recommended to the General Assembly that the subjects for in-depth evaluations be (1) global development trends, issues and policies, and global approaches to social and microeconomic issues and policies, and the corresponding subprogrammes in the regional commissions (programmes 7.3 and 7.4 of the medium-term plan) and (2) the advancement of women, and that the reports thereon be submitted to the Committee at its fortieth session.

Triennial review

At its fortieth session, the Committee will undertake a triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations it made at its thirty-seventh session on the evaluation of the programme on statistics and of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives (A/55/__)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of global development trends, issues and policies, and global approaches to social and microeconomic issues and policies, and the corresponding subprogrammes in the regional commissions (programmes 7.3 and 7.4 of the medium-term plan) (E/AC.51/2000/2)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of the advancement of women (E/AC.51/2000/3)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-seventh session on the evaluation of the programme on statistics (E/AC.51/2000/4)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-seventh session on the evaluation of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (E/AC.51/2000/5)

4. Coordination questions

(a) Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX), the Committee will have before it the annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) for 1999.

At its thirty-ninth session, the Committee noted that the annual overview report of ACC was an improvement over those of previous years. Nevertheless, it recommended that the report be further improved to include more information

concerning levels of aid flows and provide detail on follow-up actions taken on past ACC decisions.

The Committee indicated its desire to be informed in greater detail on how legislative mandates given by the Economic and Social Council were implemented by the system and also which of those mandates it had not been possible to implement and why.

The Committee further indicated that it was important for ACC to continue to deal with the issue of globalization and monitor the impact of the financial crisis and the other negative consequences of globalization.

The Committee also recommended that ACC continue to give priority to follow-up on the outcome of United Nations conferences and summits and indicated that there must be adequate resources to finance follow-up actions.

In connection with the impact of sanctions on third-party States, the Committee conveyed a strong message that it was time to move from words to action and to provide the necessary assistance to the affected countries. The Committee noted that it needed to be kept informed on any activities and progress in the field.

The Committee recommended that it be regularly briefed on the outcomes of ACC meetings.

The Committee also requested that the next report of ACC include a part related to the implementation of the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/52/7/Rev.1, chap. II.A, para. IV.4).

The General Assembly, by its resolution 54/236, endorsed the aforementioned conclusions and recommendations of the Committee.

The Economic and Social Council, by its resolution 1999/66, *inter alia*, took note with appreciation of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the review of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and its machinery (A/54/288) and the comments thereon of the Secretary-General and ACC (A/54/288/Add.1); and invited ACC to give special attention, in its annual overview report for 1999, to progress being made towards system-wide coordinated management of information, including the role and contribution of its Information Systems Coordination Committee, pursuant to recommendation B1 of the Joint Inspection Unit. It also invited ACC to continue to report on its deliberations concerning the recommendations made by the Joint Inspection Unit in the context of its own reporting on its functioning and methods of work.

Documentation

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1999 (E/2000/__)

(b) United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

At its thirty-ninth session, the Committee took note of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the

Development of Africa in the 1990s (E/AC.51/1999/6) and commended the improvement in quality over the previous year's report. The Committee noted with concern the limited number of countries covered by the Initiative and called for greater coverage of countries.

The Committee took note of the innovative resource mobilization strategy outlined at the meeting jointly organized in October 1998 by the World Bank and the secretariat of the Special Initiative and formulated in a report to the Co-Chairs of the ACC Steering Committee on the Special Initiative; and requested that a resource mobilization strategy together with the concrete action plan be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination for consideration at its fortieth session.

The Committee, while welcoming the emphasis on improving Africa's trade competitiveness in the priority area of trade access and opportunities, requested that activities also be implemented on opportunities to access markets and that such activities be reflected in the next progress report.

The Committee noted the matrix prepared by the Secretariat in follow-up to and implementation of its recommendations and requested that such a matrix be improved by adding a fourth column indicating actions taken and submitted to it together with future progress reports.

As requested at its thirty-ninth session (A/54/16, para. 596), the Committee will have before it a progress report on the Special Initiative, including measures taken in response to the recommendations of the Committee (ibid., paras. 587-594). Those recommendations were endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/236.

In resolution 54/236, the General Assembly also noted that the proposals relating to performance indicators requested by the Committee and contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Special Initiative had not been approved by the Assembly.

Documentation

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (E/AC.51/2000/6)

(c) Draft system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 2002-2005

At its thirty-eighth session, the Committee considered the progress report of the Secretary-General on the mid-term review of the implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001 (E/CN.6/1998/3) and a note by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the revised plan (E/1998/10) and, in accordance with its terms of reference, agreed to consider the draft plan for the period 2002-2005. The attention of the Committee is drawn to Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/16, in which the Council invited the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to formulate the plan for 2002-2005 in two phases — the first phase consisting of an assessment of activities undertaken by the United Nations system and of obstacles encountered and lessons learned from the present plan and the system-wide process of implementation, the second phase consisting of a new plan that reflects the growing emphasis on action and delivery.

The Economic and Social Council also decided that the assessment should be submitted to it through the Commission on the Status of Women in 2000 and that the new plan for 2002-2005 should be submitted to the Council through the Commission in 2001.

The attention of the Committee is drawn to the report of the Secretary-General on the assessment of the implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001 (E/CN.6/2000/3).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 2002-2005 (E/AC.51/2000/7)

5. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

Under this item, the Committee will consider the report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit selected by the Committee at its organizational session in April 2000.

The attention of the Committee is drawn to General Assembly resolution 42/218, by which the Assembly requested all bodies of the United Nations system to examine closely those reports of the Joint Inspection Unit which were within their respective areas of competence and to comment, as appropriate, on the recommendations contained therein. The attention of the Committee is also drawn to Assembly resolution 45/237.

In its resolution 48/221, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, invited the Joint Inspection Unit, in its future work programmes, to put more emphasis on inspection and evaluation to ensure optimum use of funds in order to enhance the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations system, and requested the Unit, when appropriate, to provide in its reports information on estimated financial implications or possible cost savings resulting from implementation of the recommendations formulated therein.

Also in resolution 48/221, the General Assembly called upon the Joint Inspection Unit to follow up on the implementation of its recommendations and to include the relevant information regularly in its annual reports; invited the Unit to maintain a close relationship with the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the International Civil Service Commission, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the Board of Auditors, the Panel of External Auditors and organizations and bodies within the United Nations system in order to ensure greater and more cost-effective coordination of their respective activities for the promotion of management efficiency, greater accountability and transparency of the United Nations and other participating organizations; and requested the executive heads of the participating organizations to increase their efforts to make detailed and timely comments on Joint Inspection Unit reports and to ensure that their governing bodies considered those reports.

Furthermore, in paragraph 5 (e) (iii) of its resolution 48/218 B, by which it established the Office of Internal Oversight Services, the General Assembly decided that the Board of Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit should be provided with copies of all final reports produced by the Office as well as the comments of the Secretary-General on them and should provide the Assembly with their comments as appropriate.

In its resolution 50/233, the General Assembly requested the Joint Inspection Unit to continue to focus its reports on important priority items, identifying concrete managerial, administrative and programming questions aimed at providing the Assembly and other legislative organs of participating organizations with practical and action-oriented recommendations on precisely defined issues; and to issue its reports well in advance of meetings of the legislative organs of participating organizations so that the reports could be thoroughly and effectively utilized by those organs.

In its resolution 54/16, the General Assembly invited the Unit, while preparing its annual programme of work, to give priority to the reports requested by the participating organizations; and endorsed the system of follow-up to the reports of the Unit (see A/52/34, annex I) and invited the Unit to include in its annual reports approved recommendations that had not been implemented.

6. Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate

At its thirty-ninth session, the Committee considered the item entitled "Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate" and reviewed the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations on the matter agreed to at its thirty-eighth session.

The Committee affirmed the shared responsibility of members, observers and the Secretariat in improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee within the framework of its mandate. It stressed that the Secretariat should submit the necessary documents on time and in accordance with the six-week rule, that their format should be in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 52/214 B and 53/208 B and that the Secretariat must pay closer attention to the contents of the documents as well as to the quality of translation. The Committee recognized that, since the discussion section did not represent a consensus view, negotiations on the discussion section should be avoided; and emphasized that no actions should be taken by the Secretariat on matters reflected in the discussion section, nor should action be taken on recommendations not approved by the Economic and Social Council and/or the General Assembly. The Committee also recognized the need to pay more in-depth attention to its coordinating role as the main subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council. The Committee agreed to continue to implement its recommendations contained in paragraphs 363 to 369 of its report (A/53/16) and decided to continue the consideration of this item during its fortieth session.

7. Provisional agenda for the forty-first session

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII), the Committee will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its forty-first session, with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each agenda item and the legislative authority for their preparation, to enable it to consider those documents from the point of view of their contribution to its work, their urgency and their relevance in the light of the current situation.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-first session of the Committee (E/AC.51/2000/L.5)

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fortieth session

The report of the Committee on its fortieth session will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2000 and to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.

Annex

Members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination for 2000

	Term expires on 31 December
Argentina	2002
Bahamas	2000
Bangladesh	2002
Benin	2001
Brazil	2002
Cameroon	2002
China	2001
Comoros	2001
Cuba	2002
Egypt	2001
France	2000
Gabon	2002
Germany	2002
Indonesia	2002
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2002
Italy	2002
Japan	2001
Mauritania	2002
Mexico	2000
Pakistan	2002
Peru	2002
Poland	2002
Portugal	2002
Republic of Korea	2001
Republic of Moldova	2002
Russian Federation	2000
San Marino	2002
Uganda	2000
Ukraine	2002
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2002
United States of America	2000
Uruguay	2001
Zambia	2000
Zimbabwe	2002